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U.S. MAY ABANDON A TOP POLICY UNIT

**Kennedy Reported Planning
to End Coordinating Board
of the Security Council**

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President Kennedy is reportedly planning to drop the Operations Coordinating Board from the National Security Council.

The council is the President's highest advisory body, composed of top Cabinet-level officials and charged with major policy recommendations affecting the country's security. The President usually presides over its meetings.

The Operations Coordinating Board is the unit, headed by the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, that has been charged with the "follow through" responsibilities for the Security Council's actions.

It prepares Executive "directives" from the broad policy agreements reached in the National Security Council and approved by the President.

Other Board Members

In addition to the Under Secretary of State, the board's membership includes the special assistant to the President for security affairs, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the directors of the United States information and foreign-aid agencies.

The board has not met since President Kennedy took office. Its members in the new Administration would be, in the order of the positions listed above, Chester Bowles, McGeorge Bundy, Allen W. Dulles, Edward R. Murrow and Henry R. Labouisse.

President Kennedy, it is understood, has been convinced that the regular meetings and elaborate staff operations of the Operations Coordinating Board are not an efficient method of carrying out security policies.

He is said to prefer informal meetings, spontaneous discussion of problems as they arise and the assignment of specific responsibilities to specific officials in place of the committee-style operations of the O. C. B.

In a similar reorganization plan, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara is expected to drop the Armed Services Policy Council at the Pentagon.

The council is composed of the Defense Secretary, his deputy, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Pentagon director of research and engineering and the service secretaries.

The policy council is supposed to meet regularly to coordinate activities in each department and division of the Pentagon.

However, Mr. McNamara has had only one meeting of the council since he took over as Secretary. The meeting was part of a "crash" effort that reversed the Eisenhower Administration's order on dependents of servicemen overseas.

The council was called on to coordinate the cancellation of earlier orders curtailing the number of dependents allowed to accompany troops to overseas posts.

Hold Breakfast Meetings

Secretary McNamara and his deputy, Roswell H. Gilpatric, have devised a technique for coordinating policy with the service secretaries without resorting to formal sessions.

They have been seeing the Army, Navy and Air Force Secretaries—Elvis J. Stahr, John Connally Jr. and Eugene M. Zuckert—by turns or in groups in 7:30 A. M. breakfast sessions each day.

Instead of calling meetings of the Armed Forces Policy Council for more elaborate discussions, the Secretary has invited the service secretaries to attend the regular staff meetings of the Defense Department.

The planned abandonment of the Operations Coordinating Board of the National Security Council is not surprising. Dr. Richard F. Neustadt, President Kennedy's adviser on Government operations, has long advocated the move.

Dr. Neustadt helped draft a report of the Senate Subcommittee on National Policy Machinery that said the "case for abolishing the O. C. B. is strong."

Significance Questioned

The report was issued last December under the supervision of the subcommittee's chairman, Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington. It noted that the formal machinery of the O. C. B. "includes a large number of working groups for up studies and papers."

"The significance of much of this work has been strongly questioned," the report went on. It cited the following testimony of former Secretary of State

"I was chairman of the O. C. B. for two years. The feeling of utility varied an awful lot. At times you felt you were fanning the air or spending a lot of time reviewing minutiae. Some times you get yourself so bogged down in the editing of a word or a sentence that you say, 'My God, why am I spending so much time on this?'"

The O. C. B. was formed by Executive Order of President Harry S. Truman in 1947, when the National Security Council was created by Congress. It can be abandoned by an Executive Order of President Kennedy, it was noted.

Mr. Kennedy has already drafted the Executive Order and may have initiated its distribution, according to an authoritative source.